

Michigan Judges Association

Founded 1927

President:

Hon. Laura Baird
Ingham County
313 W. Kalamazoo St.
Lansing, MI 48933
Office: (517)483-6438
Email: LBaird@ingham.org

President-Elect:

Hon. Paul E. Stutesman
St. Joseph County

Vice-President:

Hon. Tracey A. Yokich
Macomb County

Secretary:

Hon. Pamela Lightvoet
Kalamazoo County

Treasurer:

Hon. Jon A. Van Allsburg
Ottawa County

Immediate Past President:

Hon. Colleen O'Brien
MI Court of Appeals

Court of Appeals:

Hon. Michael F. Gadola

Executive Committee:

Hon. Martha D. Anderson
Hon. Margaret Z. Bakker
Hon. Annette J. Berry
Hon. Kathleen M. Brickley
Hon. George S. Buth
Hon. Janice K. Cunningham
Hon. Edward Ewell
Hon. Joseph J. Farah
Hon. Kathleen Feeney
Hon. John H. Gillis, Jr
Hon. Michael P. Hatty
Hon. Jon Hulsing
Hon. Scott Hill Kennedy
Hon. Susan Hubbard
Hon. Shalina D. Kumar
Hon. Charles T. LaSata
Hon. Alexander C. Lipsey
Hon. George J. Mertz
Hon. Lita Popke
Hon. Michelle M. Rick
Hon. Joseph K. Sheeran
Hon. Thomas L. Solka
Hon. Mark Switalski
Hon. Kurtis T. Wilder
Hon. Christopher P. Yates

Executive Director:

Timothy R. Ward

To: House Criminal Justice Committee

From: Judge Laura Baird, President of the Michigan Judges Association

RE: HB 5273 (Pagel) - Successor Sentencing Judge Parole Veto for Prisoners
Serving Life Sentences

Date: April 12, 2016

The Michigan Judges Association (MJA) supports HB 5273, which would remove the veto power held by successor judges over the parole of prisoners serving life sentences. MJA appreciates that the legislation instead provides successor judges with the opportunity to provide information to be considered in the parole process.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer comments on this important bill. MJA looks forward to working with the House Criminal Justice Committee in the worthy endeavor of reforming the manner of involvement of successor judges in the parole process.